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MONKS KIRBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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A N N U A L     R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the year 1925.

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Annual Report of M.O.H.

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For the year 1925

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health this Report is more comprehensive than has heretofore been customary, for it includes statistics and other Public Health particulars for the past five years.

As this is but one of fifteen Reports which I am submitting to as many Authorities its size and scope are necessarily more curtailed than would be the case were I merely acting for a single District.

The subjects dealt with are systematized under the following six headings:-

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Housing.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

I.    NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) .....	10,365
Population Census, 1921.....	1,517
"        Estimated, 1925.....	1,531.

Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

The District consists chiefly of undulating grass land with a total fall of 130 ft. towards the South West. It is within the basin of the Avon, being drained by two small brooks. The geological formation is Red Marl.



## Physical Features and General Character of the Area (Cont.)

Number of inhabited houses (1921).....	367
Rateable Value.....	£16833
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£46

### Social Conditions.

The District is agricultural, most of the land being grazed. There are no factories, and no workshops save such as are common to all Rural Districts. The picturesque village of Monks Kirby adjoins Newnham Paddox the residence of the Earl of Denbigh. Pailton is the largest of the remaining little villages, four in number.

### Vital Statistics.

Births, legitimate - M. 18. F. 13. Total - 31

" illegitimate - Nil.

Birth Rate..... 20.2

" " (1921 - 1925)..... 17.2

" " for England & Wales (1925) 18.3

Deaths..... M. 12. F. 12. Total - 24.

Death Rate ..... 15.6

" " (1921 - 1925)..... 12.5

" " for England & Wales (1925) 12.2

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - 1 (legitimate)

Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 Births..... 32

" " " (1921 - 1925)..... 84

" " " for England & Wales (1925) 75





Causes of Death in 1925.

Civilians only.

<u>Causes of death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
<u>All Causes</u> .....	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
Whooping cough.....	1	-
Influenza .....	-	1
Cancer, malignant disease.....	1	4
Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.....	-	1
Heart disease.....	3	1
Arterio-sclerosis .....	2	-
Bronchitis .....	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	1	-
Congenital debility & malformation, } premature birth,	1	-
Other defined diseases .....	2	2

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II. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or County Council:-

(1) Tuberculosis.

The Warwickshire Memorial Sanatorium.

(2) Maternity.

County Maternity Homes at Warwick and Rugby.

(3) Children.

No special hospitals.

(4) Fever.

The District is combined with Rugby and adjoining Districts for the provision of a suitable hospital at Harborough Magna which is under the Rugby Joint Hospital Board.

(5) Small Pox.

The Hospital near Rugby is available for this in common with adjoining Districts.





### Other Institutional Provision.

None special to the District. Details of provision under this and preceding sections of this heading are dealt with comprehensively year by year in the County Reports.

### Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases:- At hospital.

(b) For Non-infectious Cases }:- At Rugby and other Gen-  
and Accident. } eral Hospitals.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. Vide County Report.

### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The District is combined with fourteen others in the Counties of Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire for the retention of a whole time Medical Officer of Health. The Combined District has an area of 500 sq. miles and a population of about 120,000. No special office or clerical assistance is provided.

The Sanitary Inspector is Surveyor and Inspector for this and the adjoining Rural District of Lutterworth in Leicestershire.

### Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General:- There is a District Nurse who visits in the parishes of Monks Kirby, Stretton-under-Fosse and Pailton.

(b) For Infectious Diseases:- Tuberculosis cases are visited by the County Health Visitors.

### Midwives.

There is one Midwife residing in the District.

### Chemical Work.

Samples of water are analysed by the Medical Officer of Health.



### Legislation in Force.

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890 and appropriate sections of the Public Health Act (Amendment) Act 1890, have been adopted.

New Building Bye-laws were adopted in 1920 for the whole of the District.

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### III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water:-

Throughout the District the sole source of supply is from wells, chiefly shallow wells. As these are not infrequently in the vicinity of defective drains or manure, or, worst of all, privy-pits, it is of course in the highest degree essential that all such sources of contamination should be rectified or removed. It is primarily, though by no means exclusively, with a view to protecting these wells from removable sources of pollution that I have for years urged the necessity for systematic scavenging of night-soil and refuse in your larger villages.

#### Rivers and Streams:-

In only one instance is there appreciable contamination of the brook by means of sewage effluent. This is at Monks Kirby. In other cases the great distance of outfalls from the water-course is sufficient to secure an adequate measure of purification. There are no trade-effluents.

#### Closet Accommodation, Drainage & Sewerage:-

All requisite information in respect of each parish is furnished in the subjoined synopsis:-





Parish	Nature of Sewers.	No. of Outfalls.	Dist. from Outfalls to Brook.	Degree of Pollution of Brook.	Approximate No. of -		
					Privies <sup>x</sup>	Pail Closets.	W.C's
Cropston Magna	Socket pipes & tiles	Several	1200 yds.	Not noticeable	6 (11)	10	2
Monks Kirby	Socket pipes cement joints	2	50 yds. & 300 yds.	Noticeable.	12 (46)	67	14
Pailton	Socket pipes & tiles.	2	800 yds. & 1000 yds.	Not noticeable	13 (47)	70	12
Stretton-under-Fosse.	Socket pipes & tiles.	1	800 yds.	Not noticeable	15 (34)	39	6
Wibtoft	Socket pipes cement joints	1 Sewage disposal Works.	-	None	3 (5)	12	0
Willey	Socket pipes	1	750 yds.	Not noticeable.	7 (14)	17	1

<sup>x</sup> The figures in brackets are the numbers shown in my report for 1920.





### Scavenging.

There is no system of public scavenging in any of the villages. Throughout the Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts I have for many years advised the appointment of a public scavenger in all villages with over 40 inhabited houses and in some of these Combined Districts this recommendation has long since been substantially adopted. The Ministry of Health in common with the whole of the Public Health profession attaches great importance to the effective abolition of privy-pits. As a rule the appointment of a scavenger is a condition precedent to these pits being replaced by movable receptacles. Reference to the Table on the preceding page will show that substantial headway has been made during the past five years. The next step is to scavenge the larger villages. At Pailton and at Monks Kirby there are many accumulations requiring removal.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

1925.

Total No. of complaints received during the year.....	2
" " " inspections made for all purposes.....	226
" " " notices served - Informal - Statutory -	6.
" " " summonses issued.....	nil

Insanitary Houses	No. inspected	16
(Public Health Act 1875)	No. cleansed	2
Overcrowding	No. of houses inspected	16
	Nuisances abated	nil
Offensive Accumulations	No. inspected	7
	Nuisances abated	7

### Closet Accommodation:-

Total No. in District	(1) Privies	56
	(2) Pail closets	215
	(3) W.C's	35
Privies (middens)	No. of new provided	nil
	No. repaired	nil
	No. converted to (a) pails	4
	(b) W.C's	1



Pails or Earth closets	No. of new provided	4
	No. converted to W.C's	1

Water closets	No. of new provided	3
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#### Drainage and Sewerage:-

Drains, drain traps etc.	No. inspected	64
	Nuisances abated	21

Cesspools	No. repaired, cleansed &c.	3
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#### Scavenging:-

How is refuse disposed of? By occupiers of Houses.

Ashpits	No. converted to ashbins	1
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Ashbins	No. of new provided	3
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#### Water Supply:-

No. of samples taken for analysis..... nil

Wells	No. closed	nil
	No. cleansed, repaired etc.	7

#### Infectious Diseases:-

Houses	No. inspected	3
	No. of inspections	3

No. disinfected	(a) Houses	3
	(b) Schoolrooms	nil

What are the arrangements for disinfection of	(a) Bedding etc.	Steam Spraying and fumigation
	(b) Premises	

#### Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations:-

Common Lodging Houses - None in District.

Offensive Trades - " " "

Canal Boats. - " " "

#### Schools:-

There are five small Public Elementary Schools in the District, all of which are maintained satisfactorily.

### IV. HOUSING.

With a decreasing or at best a stationary population since 1911, cases of overcrowding, or certainly of accentuated overcrowding, are relatively few - approximately sixteen. Building has, however, been at a standstill, not a single house having





been erected during the past five years. Inspections under the Housing Regulations have, however, continued and during that period 31 defective dwelling-houses have been rendered fit in consequence of informal action, only one Closing Order having been issued.

The particulars required by the Ministry for 1925 are as follows:-

Number of new houses erected during the year .....nil.

1. Unfit dwelling-houses:-

<u>Inspection</u> - (1)	Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	16
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected & recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations 1910)	16
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	nil
(4)	No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	7

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	7
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3. Action under Statutory Powers. Nil.

There are, as in many old-world Rural Districts, some of the houses which fall definitely below a reasonable standard of habitability, and in my judgment the finest field for State assistance and County or District assistance lies in re-conditioning. By re-conditioning we mean such thorough overhauling as would bring defective houses up to modern standards of comfort and habitability. The offer of a £100 subsidy might encourage some private building. Failing any response to this offer it would be advisable for the Council to build according to requirements.



V. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply:-

The following particulars are submitted by the Sanitary Inspector:-

<u>Retail Purveyors:</u>	(a) Register - No. on	7
	(b) Premises - Total No. of inspections	15
	No. of contraventions found	2
	No. found to require -	
	(a) Cleansing	2
	(b) Structural or san. imprs.	-

Wholesale Traders & Producers:-

(a) Register - No. on	34
(b) Premises - No. of inspections	
(1) Total	76
(2) During milking time	12
No. of contraventions found	17
No. found to require -	
(1) Cleansing	14
(2) Structural or san. imprs.	3

As there are several large dairy farms supplying milk beyond the District it is of course important that the possibility of any tuberculous milk being yielded should be reduced to a minimum, and for this reason I would ask you to have recourse to systematic veterinary inspection of all milch cows as is done in most Leicestershire Districts including Lutterworth. There are about 274 milch cows in the District.

The standard of cleanliness in milking and dairying has been on the up-grade for many years. It is a matter to which your Inspector has given a great deal of attention. Every effort should, however, be made to raise it still further and as there is now available a simple filtration test by which the degree of cleanliness of different samples can be compared I would ask you to authorize the Sanitary Inspector to utilize it. It should be rendered as difficult as possible for any person to sell dirty milk and these filtration tests are a very simple control. These tests are now used with no little success in the City of Leicester and elsewhere. Their cost is negligible and it requires no special technical knowledge to enable us to see at a glance which milks are dirty and which are clean.





(b) Meat:-

There are two Slaughter-houses in the District both of which are fairly well kept. Thirty-six inspections were made during the year. There were no seizures or surrenders and no carcasses were condemned for Tuberculosis..

(c) Other Foods:-

Bakehouses are regularly inspected and are very well kept.

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VI. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

For the second successive year no case of Infectious Disease other than Tuberculosis has been notified.

Three cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis (Consumption) were notified, two of the patients receiving sanatorium treatment. Their age and sex classification is as follows:- M. over 65, M. 37. and F. age period 35 - 45. One boy aged 8 was notified as having tuberculous neck glands. There were no fatal cases.

The fatal case of Pneumonia reported among the "Causes of Death" had not been notified. There is, however in my opinion nothing to be gained by the notification of this Disease. In some of my more populous districts it involves a lot of needless book-keeping and the cost of notification is a little expenditure which might well be saved.

The notifications of Infectious Disease received during the past five years were as follows:-

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total	Admitted to Hos.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	16	3	-	-	-	19	13	-
Pneumonia	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	2	1	2	3	8	4	3
Other forms of Tuberculo- sis.	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-





No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum has been notified in the District since 1914.

Facilities for bacteriological examination are provided by the County Council. This work is carried out at Birmingham University.

Factories and Workshops.

As there are no factories and no workshops beyond the bake-houses and such others as are common to all Rural Districts there is little or nothing to report under this heading. Fourteen inspections were made and one written notice with reference to want of cleanliness was sent. There are, in so far as we are aware, no factory outworkers in the District.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Kirby Muxloe,  
Nr. Leicester.  
May 7th, 1926.

